



2023 DOUGLAS COUNTY PIER DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

PHASE ONE: LETTER OF INTEREST GUIDE

The Letter of Interest (LOI) serves as an initial preliminary step in this grant application process and will help identify projects that align with **Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization Program** (PIER) grant funding priorities. Before you submit your LOI, please review and adhere to the following guidance established by the **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee**.

PIER Grant Background:

PIER is part of **ReOregon**, a program offered by the **Disaster Recovery and Resilience Division** of the **Oregon Housing and Community Services Department** (OHCS). **ReOregon** is funded by a **US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant** (CDBG-DR). The CDBG-DR program supports community development activities to help build stronger and more resilient communities. As a part of the disaster recovery process, **ReOregon** awarded PIER opportunity grants to the eight most impacted counties in Oregon to address the unmet infrastructure, planning, and economic revitalization recovery needs following the 2020 Labor Day fires. The grant allocation for Douglas County is \$2,399,446 and each county is responsible for establishing a local application process and allocation program.

Douglas County formed a **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee**, and they are responsible for choosing eligible projects or programs for their communities, establishing the award amount, and which entity or organization will serve as project leaders. **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee** consists of representatives from the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglas County Emergency Management Department, Glide Revitalization (Archie Creek Fire LTRG), Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and CCD Business Development Corporation. More information on the PIER program can be found at <https://jccltrg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PIER-Program-Guidelines-V.1.pdf>.

Project LOI Criteria:

Applicants must adhere to specific criterion and eligibility requirement established by the SC to be considered for funding. While the basis for the grant funding centers around the 2020 Labor Day Fires, LOI and projects do not have to be directly tied to the 2020 wildfire impact but must focus either on recovery or mitigation from disasters that are high-risk to Douglas County. Recovery examples include economic revitalization, infrastructure services, and planning projects or programs relating to recovery needs within Douglas County. Mitigation examples are forward looking projects or programs that would reduce the expected loss of life or property from natural hazards or increase community resilience to future disasters. Please ensure that your organization and project meet all eligibility requirements before submitting your LOI.

Eligible Entities:

Tribal, State, County, and Municipal Governments, Agencies, Districts and Authorities, Schools (K-12), Public Housing Authorities, Other Public or Quasi-Public Entities, and Nonprofit Entities.

Project Cost Limitation:

Projects must be significant in size, impact, and scope. Per the PIER guidelines, projects must be no less than \$500,000 and are equally accessible to all applicants that meet the criteria. Applicants and projects must be located in Douglas County to be eligible. Requests for smaller scoped projects will not be considered for this round of grant opportunities.

LOI Project Description:

The LOI submission must be no more than 2 pages and include the following information:

- 1) Project name or title
- 2) Organization or entity submitting LOI. Name, address, website, social media and contact information
- 3) Brief initial overview of your project with these elements:
 - Describe the recovery or mitigation need or problem your project aims to address
 - Target goal (hazard mitigation, infrastructure service, economic revitalization, or planning)
 - Target population of impact or benefit
 - Estimated amount of funding (total cost only)
 - Attachments of choice (no more than 2 attachments in PDF format)
 - Acknowledgement sentence that you understand that PIER program funds are reimbursement based, and that successful final applicants will need to have an identified partnership or funding plan that can cover costs through a reimbursement process. (A financial plan nor a full budget is required for the LOI)
- 4) Identify a point of contact for follow-up.

Post-Submission Steps:

The **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee** will begin to review all LOI's electronically submitted as recommended, following the submission date. If your project meets criteria, you may be invited to submit a full grant application and at that time will receive additional instructions. **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee** selections will also be reviewed and must receive support from OHCS/DRR/[ReOregon](#). Those entities not invited to submit a full application will receive an acknowledgment of receipt with a decline to move on to the next step.

The **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee** is required to submit meeting minutes and forms to OHCS for their final review and overall approval. **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee** may draw upon prior public discussions or current public engagement processes and experience needed to determine needs around remaining recovery from the 2020 Wildfires and/or mitigate against a future disaster impacts for some or all its project selections.

LOI Submission Due Date:

LOI's must be submitted no later than midnight on **Thursday, December 7, 2023**.

Where to Submit LOI:

LOI's must be addressed to the attention of the **Douglas County PIER Selection Committee** and submitted in a .pdf format via email to dcinfo@douglascountyor.gov no later than the deadline listed above.

Where to Direct Questions:

Questions about the **Douglas County PIER Disaster Recovery Grant Program** can be directed to dcinfo@douglascountyor.gov.